Shoreline
Vol 7, No. 2 • Spring 2000
Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury State University

Nabb Research Center Announces Board Officers for 2000-2001

The following are the new board officers for the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture for 2000-2001.

Chairman - George Gering

"Buzz," as he is familiarly known, entered the Army in March 1943 as an Aviation Cadet. Upon graduation he went to England with the 8th Air Force, assigned to a B-24 Liberator Squadron. Following WWII, he received a regular commission in the Air Force and during a 33 year career had various assignments in flying, administrative and command positions, serving in the United States, England, Korea, Alaska and Turkey. Having risen to the rank of colonel, his final assignment prior to retirement was as director of Attache Affairs, Hqs. U.S. Air Force.

New board officers (L-R) Gordon Wood, "Buzz" Gering and Polly Batchelder.

Following retirement Gering, with his wife Cherry, moved to Snow Hill, MD, where he has been active in local community work, including serving as mayor of Snow Hill and president of the Snow Hill Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club. Well known at Salisbury State University, he has been a lecturer with the History Department since 1978 as well as serving on the judiciary and Book Rack boards, chairman of the Salisbury State Foundation and was, prior to this recent election, chairman of the Nabb Center's board for 10 years.

The Gerings have two children, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Vice Chairman - Gordon E. Wood Sr.

Wood, who graduated from the University of Delaware with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering, pursued graduate degrees from George Washington University, culminating in a Doctor of Jurisprudence. Throughout his career he has used these degrees as design and development manager of the rocket motor on the Minuteman ICBM, minority counsel in the U.S. House of Representatives for the Public Works and Transportation Committee and Water Resources Subcommittee, vice-president of government relations for the Olin Corporation and counsel and deputy director of the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program for the Army Corps of Engineers.

In retirement Wood and his wife Patricia live in Ocean View, DE. When not fishing, traveling, researching family genealogy or writing the *History of Family in Baltimore Hundred*, he serves on the Ocean View zoning board, board of directors of Accucap Corporation, Delaware National Bank and Earthspan Corporation and the Implementation Committee of the Delaware Inland Rivers and Bay Commission.

The Woods have four sons and 10 grandchildren.

Secretary - Pauline M. Batchelder

Batchelder grew up in Washington, D.C., where she graduated from American University with a degree in French and Spanish. Her career has been varied, having served as an editor and assistant branch chief with the U.S. Department of State, designer and production manager with the Johns

Continued on page 2

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Staff

Rebecca F. Miller - Director
Corinne Les Callette - Research Assistant
Iris Powell - Cataloger/Accessioner
Rebecca Francis - Part-time Archivist
Donna Messick - Secretary

Hours

Monday 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Tuesday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Closings
May 27, 29 & July 3-4, 2000

Graduate Assistant

T. Aaron Horner

Student Workers

Lauren Callan
Steve Lee
Lindsay Read

Board Members

Joan D. Baraloto
B. Miles Barnes
Pauline M. Batchelder
Jane D. Bunting
David Burton
Richard Cooper
Thomas H. Fooks V
George W. Gering
Jeff Hatfield
Catherine Hawthorne
R. Patrick Hayman
James L. Henderson
John E. Jacob Jr.
Joel T. Jenne
Frances Latimer
Shay McNeal
Jean Mihalyka
Edward H. Nabb
David G. Nutter
Jeffrey Pilchard
Clara Small
Polly Stewart
Patricia J. Taylor
G. Ray Thompson
Charles C. Thornton Sr.
Kathryn W. Washburn
Robert Withey
Gordon E. Wood Sr.

Membership Dues

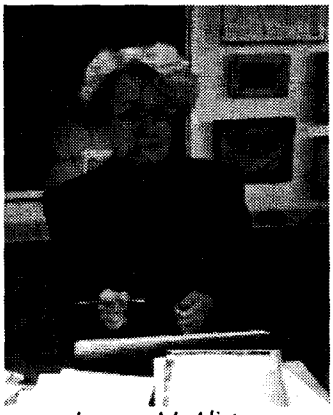
Director's Circle $1,000; Benefactor $500; Business $250; Sustaining $100; Supporting $50; Annual $25; Newsletter Subscription $12

People

Volunteerism

As always, we, the staff of the Nabb Research Center, are grateful to the wonderful work that is done at the Center by our dedicated volunteers. These people give selflessly of their time to benefit all the patrons of the Center. They help us in all manner of things, from preparing our new materials for public use to helping our patrons when they come in the Nabb Research Center.

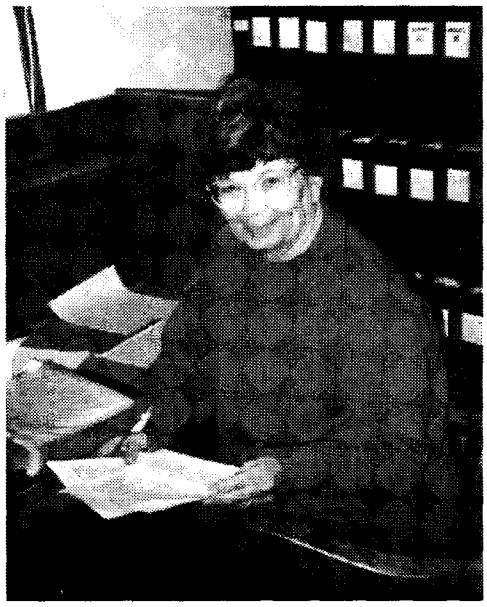
Jean Woolston is a native Eastern Shoreman from Cambridge, MD. She has been doing genealogy for more than 20 years. Most of her research has been based in Dorchester, Somerset, and Talbot counties from the 1600s to present. Woolston has been using the Nabb Center as a source for her own research since it first started on the main campus at Salisbury State. She has even compiled three books of alphabetized marriage records for Dorchester County starting in 1780. When asked why she chose to volunteer her time to the Center, she answered that she wanted to give back in some way what she has gained from the Nabb Center.



Jeanne McAlister

Jeanne McAlister is another lady who graciously donates her time and expertise at the Center. She has only recently moved to Salisbury from her native Texas after working in Egypt for eight years. Her interests lie in anthropology and archeology. She runs her own business selling an isotonic sports drink, ZEMI, via the Internet. Her brother has researched their family tree back to the 12th century. McAlister has found the Salisbury community lovely and peaceful. She enjoys volunteering at the Nabb Center, finding the people pleasant and the work interesting.

The Nabb Research Center says "Thank you" to all our volunteers for giving so freely of their time to help us all in our search for our past.



Written genealogical inquiries from our "distant cousins" are answered by our long time volunteer, Fay Brooks of Princess Anne, utilizing the various resources at the Nabb Research Center. Seen in the background is part of the Leslie Dryden collection.

Board Members

Continued from page 1

Hopkins University Press, and later as a free-lance editor and designer.

At the time of her retirement, she and her husband, Merritt, moved to Mt. Vernon, MD, where her interests include drawing, print-making, classical music, bird-watching, genealogy and volunteering at the Nabb Center.

The Batchelders have one son, Geoffrey, who is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in philosophy.

Actual Letter to Dear Abby

Dear Abby,
I have always wanted to have my family history traced, but I can't afford to spend a lot of money to do it. Any suggestions?
Sam

Dear Sam,
Yes. Run for public office.

New Staff Member

Donna Messick has come aboard as the long awaited secretary for the Nabb Research Center. She will assist Director Rebecca Miller with many clerical duties around the Center.

Messick is a native Eastern Shoreman, growing up in Salisbury. Her family's roots are in Somerset County, and she has used the Center in the past for researching both her own Ford family and her husband's Messick family.

Having always had an interest both in history and genealogy, Messick started doing volunteer work at the Center last fall. During her first weeks here it was exciting to come across references to various family members. When the secretarial position became available here, she applied for the job because it seemed to have the right combination of utilizing her skills and providing an environment that she enjoyed. She is looking forward to helping the patrons at the Center and becoming more knowledgable about Delmarva history.

Delmarva History Prize Winner

Every year the Nabb Research Center accepts nominations for outstanding historical research focusing on the Delmarva Peninsula. The winner is awarded a $500 prize made possible by an endowment to the Nabb Research Center from the W.F. Donner Foundation in honor of Wilcomb E. Washburn, a distinguished historian of the Smithsonian Institution and a resident of Somerset County.

Robert Holmlund, a graduate of Salisbury State University, is this year's winner of the $500 Delmarva History Prize for his research on the colonial boundary disputes between Maryland and Virginia. His paper, "The Borderlands: Territorial Politics on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland During the 17th Century," follows the granting and revoking of charters by England's King James I, Lord Baltimore's quest for settling Maryland's border with Virginia's persecuted Quakers, and Virginian Colonel Scarburgh's tax raids on Annemessex and Manokin inhabitants.

Holmlund developed his paper for history faculty Dean Fafoutis' proseminar class, spending countless hours at the Nabb Center poring over primary sources during the spring of 1999. He has a dual degree in history and anthropology and is presently pursuing his master's in education.

Visitors from the West:

(From left) Don W. Hamilton, Nancy Hamilton from Red Lodge, MT, and Wanda L. Fullbright from Prescott, AZ, spent a week in March pursuing genealogical research. In their evaluation of the Center they felt their experience was helpful and enjoyable.

Fare Well

For most people, spring is the time of renewal and beginning. Here at the Nabb Research Center, spring is the time of ending and farewell to our students—some just for the summer—some forever. This year, Lauren Callan will graduate from SSU with a degree in English. Callan has worked at the Nabb Research Center since fall 1996 when she was a freshman, tender of age and new to college as well as to her employment with us. She also worked for us last summer and without her diligence, we would have been at a loss. We have watched her blossom through the past several years and we have every confidence that she will do very well in her M.A. program at Towson University in the fall. Their gain of this fine young student is our loss of a very capable individual. The members of the Nabb Research Center would like to think we had a hand in the molding of her work habits and skills which will be beneficial in her academic and future employment pursuits.

Callan worked along side us in preparation of the inaugural calendar, and she is making her imprint on the project for 2001. Fare well, blithe spirit; we shall ne'er forget ye!

Patron Survey

Recently we have started asking our patrons to evaluate the Nabb Research Center, its resources and its service. Through this we hope to determine how we can better serve those who visit and research their families or otherwise make use of our resources.

Many of the comments which we have received give us great pride. Examples include:

"Too much for one afternoon."

"The *friendly* and *personal* service is a contrast with experiences in some other libraries/ research areas"

"Would recommend that others come also!"

"Like finding an oasis in the desert"

"Great treasure of resources!!"

Somerset Judicial Records Collection

Nabb Research Center supporter Atwood Barwick, formerly of Fairmount in Somerset County (MD) and now of Lakeville, CT, is a continual donor to the Center with his meticulous transcriptions of 17th century Somerset County judicial records. To date, Barwick has supplied us with volumes of verbatim transcriptions of these court records beginning in 1670 through 1689. At least 30 students use Barwick's transcriptions each semester to find information on their subjects for a biographical exercise for the proseminar class, and other students studying the colonial period utilize these records in their research papers. Without this resource, students would have to labor deciphering and interpreting the original unindexed records. With this valuable contribution, students and other researchers may cite these records, counting the transcriptions as a primary resource with proper attribution.

Interestingly, in the latest volume, which arrived since the winter issue of this newsletter, a nugget of information concerning the estate of the late Katherine Revell surfaced.

> To their Ma[ties] Wor[ll]. Justices of Peace in Court Sitting The humble Petion[s] William Coulborne. Stephen: Horsey Nathaniel: Horsey and John: West humbly sheweth.
>
> That Whereas m[rs]. Katherine Revell dying intestate having left a Considerable personall Estate amongst her Children which Estate is unjustly deteined from your Petioners by m[r] Randall Revell (who never the less sayes) that if this Wor[ll]. Court pleases to grant an Order, he will pay to each Petioner his proportionall part. for which Order your Petioners humbly Craves. the premisses considered your Petioners will pray &c. Which Petion was not granted but order to continue y[e] (same)

In the last issue of *Shoreline* the inventories of the estates of Randall and Katherine Revell were featured. It has been a puzzlement why a prominent individual and his widow would have so little valued in their estates. From the above, perhaps we may deduce that their son, Randall Jr., was hiding the assets.

March 13th (60) (A/ see forward for folio 61 also)
1689/90 Comissioners Present as afore in folio 56. - - - - - - - -
- - - - - - - - - - -

> To the Justices of the Peace for Somerset County now Sitting in Court
> - - - - - - - - - The humble Petion of Donan Loumann James Smith & others
> Humbly Sheweth to your Worships that lately Thomas Tyar and John: Bennet hath turned the County path Leading from. m[r]. ffurnisses lower Plantation to Nusswaddock Bridge lately Inhabited by George Clandenning, and filld up the said path with Corne ffeilds and fallon trees Soe that noe passage is for persons about their Lawfull Occasions. May it therefore please your Worshipps to Order it soe as said Tyer and Bennet may forthwith cleare sd path and your Petioners shall pray.
>
> Which Petition was was immediately Granted

From the above excerpt, the researcher is able to discern that Denum Olandman and James Smith found it necessary to come before the court to complain that a county road was turned by two residents of the Manokin Hundred area to suit themselves. John Bennett was the son-in-law of the William Furniss (d.1685) from whose lower plantation the road was turned, the importance of the passage being the mention of Nusswaddock Bridge, which was in the current Westover area of Somerset County.

March 15 1689/9 (74)
John Vigerous Plt. And the sd Vigerous not appearing the Defend[ts]
agt Attorney humbly Craves a non Suite w[ch] was granted
John: Smock Deft Dent } Plt.
Sangster} Deft.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Memorandum: Rocowank and tonatank Indians made Complaint to the Court

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

John: Goldsmith and William Goldsmith Obliges them Selves to this Court to build a Bridge that shall be Six foot wide from the inside to inside, Over the Wadeing place at Monokin - with a Causey on both sides the mash. the sd Bridge to be suffitiently done both for man and horse as shall be judged by knowing men. and to be finished and ended by the last of October next to the true performs thereof they have bound themselves in 12000lb. tobacco

And in Consideration of which work they are to have 6000lb of tobacco and a Caske of Sider not exceeding fourty gallons when finished - - - - - -

~~the Court adjourns till the second Monday in June next~~

Barwick's painstakingly accurate transcriptions enable the researchers to easily find the fleeting notations, such as the above reference to the Native Americans, which may go unnoticed. One may see how the current Wicomico County community of Tony Tank in Salisbury received its name. The "wadeing place at Monokin" is a reference to the bridge in now Princess Anne.

Coppie of Oath of Allegiance] (157)

Maryland Ssc. You A B. doe sincearly promise and Swear that you will be faithfull, and bear true allegience to their Majesties King William: & Queen Mary and doe Swear that from your heart you abhor,detest and abjure, as impious and hereticall, this damnable doctrine and position, that Primces Excomunicated or deprived by the Pope or any other authority of the see of Roame may be deposed or murthered by their subjects, or any other person whatsoever And you doe declare that no forrain Prince, Prelate State or Potentate hath or ought to have any Jurisdiction, Power Superiority Prehominence or Authority Ecclesiasticall or spriritual within this Realm So help you God - - - - - - - - - -

Walter Lane Capt. Samuel: Shewell and Capt. John: King, took the sd Oath of Allegiance- - - - - -

This passage is the text of the oath all men were obliged to take to swear allegiance to King William and Queen Mary, the protestant Monarchs of England. It was during their reign in 1692 that the official religion of Maryland became Anglican and parishes that still exist today were laid out.

John: Davies. Plt.

agt.

Wm: Henderson.Deft

per Petion

To the worll. their Maties Justices of the Peace, the humble petion of Jno. Davies humbly sheweth. That whereas your peteioner hath been a Servant about — years in this County and in Virginia, & no consideration allowed to ye petioner but from one Master to another assigned, so that your petioner may and is a Servant - - - - - - - - - - - for life, and therefore your petioner craves it may be by your worps enquired whether yr petioner may be bought and sold as a Slave without any kind of Consideration, having a — that is new ready to come upon the County And upon yr worps Cristian Consideration shall humbly crave your petioner may be Senssible how he came to be so caused a Servant, and your petioner Shall in duty pray. John: Davies // Issue joynd /

Sangster for plt

Jones. for deft. Turne over //

This last passage is of interest in that the petitioner, John Davis, wonders why his indentured servitude seems to be a life long condition. Records such as this provide the historian with a unique insight into the economic and social condition existing in 17th century Maryland.

The Nabb Research Center is privileged to receive Barwick's transcriptions, which are some of the best examples of transcribed records available. Barwick's transcriptions are enhanced by his familiarity with Somerset County names, which makes his work all the more valuable to the researcher. In addition to the faithful transcription, Barwick also has included a glossary of terms found in each volume so the reader will not have to struggle with legal and archaic terms. For those who haven't had an opportunity to read these records, they are available in our reading room in the Somerset County section and also available to be read on disk at a computer in the reading room.

New Web Site Address For the Nabb Center

The Nabb Center is forging ahead on the Internet to promote Center resources. The new Web site has been available since November 1999. Our immediate goal is to create an interactive site with interactive regional map graphics and hyperlinks to photos or descriptive pages of these locations. This concept will be expanded to incorporate historical sites which in turn may link to personal histories and personal historical documents.

The Center has recently purchased a new scanner to upgrade our ability to digitalize material for our site that would offer valuable material unique to the Center to members or to other researchers online. The first interactive information section at our Web site gives geographical information about the Delmarva Peninsula. Eventually, we plan to create extended interlinking pages for county histories, thumbnails from our historical photo collections, original copies of inventories and transcriptions, samples of the Dryden Collection research, and other unique materials that would assist academic and genealogical researchers as well as promote the Nabb Center to a global audience now available via the Internet.

To these ends, SSU Information Technology has recently set up a new network server that will enable the Nabb Center to use some of the more advanced features of Internet marketing at the Nabb Center Web site. The new server has listed a new address for the Center, nabbhistory.ssu.edu. The intention is to create an address that will be easier to remember, easier to key and one that will also offer a clue to Web surfers as to what the Nabb Center might be about. With these tools in place, our goal to weave a vital presence for the Nabb Research Center into the World Wide Web is firmly in place.

Check us out at http://nabbhistory.ssu.edu

Monograph and Microfilm Accessions

Beauchamp, Alice Mae, Robert L. Chamberlin Jr., Rev. John William Klein, Mary Klein, and Rebecca Furniss Miller. *Of Ancient and Apostolic Lineage: Somerset Parish, 1692-1992*

Clemmins, Paul. *The Atlantic Colony and Colonial Maryland's Eastern Shore: From Tobacco to Grain*

Colonial Society of Pennsylvania. *Records of the Court of New Castle on Delaware, 1676-1699*

East Tennessee Historical Society. *First Families of Tennessee: A Register of Early Settlers and Their Present-Day Descendants*

Fisher, David Hackett and James C. Kelly. *Bound Away: Virginia and the Westward Movement*

Gibb, Ella Mae. *Remember Way Back When*

Hoffman, Ron. *Spirit of Dissension: Economics, Politics and the Revolution in Maryland*

Leonard, R. Bernice and Helen E. Seymour. *Land Records of Caroline County, Maryland Book 5:* Volume F, 1797-1799 Volume G, 1799-1801 Volume H, 1801-1804 and Volume I, 1804-1809

Manship, Rev. Andrew. *Thirteen Years' Experience in the Itinerancy*

Marvel, James E. *Sailing Rams*

Mason, Emilee D. *Margaret's Journey*

Mason, Emilee D. *Moses McElroy*

Mason, Emilee D. *Unknown Hero*

Mendard, McCukser, et al. *The British Economy*

Morss, Christopher, ed. *Helena to Vicksburg: A Civil War Odyssey The Personal Diary of Joshua Whittington Underhill, Surgeon, 46th Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry*

Perdue Jr., Charles L., Thomas E. Barden, and Robert K. Phillips. *Weevils in the Wheat*

Reamy, Martha and Bill Reamy. *History and Roster of Maryland Volunteers, War of 1861-1865 Index*

Vermillion, Patricia. *Namontack and Thomas Savage an Indian Voyage*

Wimbrow, Mary Bounds. *My Growing Up Years on the Eastern Shore*

Wolf, Stephanie Grauman. *As Various as Their Land The Everyday Lives of Eighteenth-Century Americans*

Microfilm

Index to and Service Records Of Confederate Soldiers Who Served In Organizations From the State of Maryland (24 reels)

Registers of Lighthouse Keepers, 1845-1912: New York Through Virginia

Some of these items were purchased by the Nabb Research Center, others were generously donated by some of our supporters. We hope to be able to acknowledge some of these individuals in an upcoming edition of this newsletter.

Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers who Served in Organizations from the State of Maryland

The compiled service records consist of a jacket-envelope for each soldier with his name, rank and unit in which he served. This envelope contains card abstracts of entries relating to the soldier as found in the original muster rolls, returns, rosters, payrolls, appointment books, hospital registers, Union prison registers and rolls, parole rolls, and inspection reports and the original of any papers relating solely to that particular soldier.

Some records of Confederate soldiers may not appear for the following reasons: they may not have served in a Maryland unit; they may have served under a different name or used a different spelling of the name; or the records may have been lost or destroyed.

These reels of microfilm will serve as a valuable resource for the study of history and genealogy during the Civil War.

Archival Collections in OCLC

This spring the Nabb Research Center has taken a new step in the promotion of its holdings to the outside world. A small number of its archival collections, with more to follow, have been cataloged in the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), a computer network that currently contains over 42 million records and is shared by libraries in 74 countries across the globe.

Researchers access OCLC by using WorldCat, one of the most heavily used bibliographic databases in higher education. By including the Nabb Research Center's holdings in OCLC, we are providing a means for researchers beyond the SSU community to discover what the Nabb Research Center contains, and are therefore making the Center's unique and valuable resources available to a much greater number of people. At the same time, we hope to increase awareness of the Nabb Research Center's holdings within the SSU community, as records entered by the Center into OCLC will also appear in VICTOR, SSU's own local library catalogue. SSU students will be increasingly likely to come across records for the Nabb Research Center's archival holdings when searching VICTOR for topics relating to American and local history.

The first archival record that the Nabb Research Center added to OCLC was the Edward H. Nabb collection, in honor of the Research Center's benefactor and namesake. This collection contains Nabb's autobiography, family histories and a family tree, primary and secondary research materials about the Nabb family, and other interesting items. Anyone looking for a glimpse of life on the Shore in the first half of the 20th century will be especially interested in the biography. Written primarily for the benefit of his descendants, Nabb's autobiography of nearly 300 pages provides a picturesque portrayal of his Cambridge, MD, childhood and of life on the Eastern Shore before and during the Great Depression. He vividly describes the town of Cambridge and the people he knew growing up, the schools he attended, and local businesses.

VICTOR does not yet contain records for everything that is in Nabb Research Center, and when at the Center patrons should continue to use our in-house database. But for those away from the Center, whether looking for a specific item or just searching for materials on a topic of interest, don't forget to look in VICTOR. It is located on the Web at http://victorweb.lib.umd.edu:9000/.

Studies in Chesapeake History:

Lower Delmarva in the 17th and Early 18th Centuries

The History Department at SSU is offering a graduate seminar in local history this summer. The course, taught by Dr. G. Ray Thompson, will familiarize students with a microcosm of early colonial history. By reading and discussing a variety of monographs and scholarly articles, students will come to see the distinct Delmarva character which developed in the 17th century Chesapeake.

The class will begin with an overview of the historiography of the colonial period insofar as it relates to Delmarva. Basic histories (county, region and colony) will be examined. Thematic monographs will be discussed. Finally, the vast records of colonial Delmarva will be tapped. Through a detailed examination of the monographs and original records relating to Delmarva, students should come to have an understanding of the scholarly materials at their disposal.

An understanding of Delmarva's environment will involve an analysis of the ethnic groups which existed in this area in the 17th century. Students will also examine the following questions: What were the conditions on the Eastern Shore when the first white settlers arrived? What were the national origins of the first settlers? Who were the first settlers? What were their immediate and long-range social and economic origins? How did the racial complexion of society change during the first century of settlement? What caused those changes? What hardships did the early settlers face? What about longevity? Was the nuclear family successful in this environment? What sort of dwellings did the earliest settlers build? What were the objects/furniture/tools found in their homes and on their farms? What were their religious beliefs? What does all this information tell us about the residents of Delmarva?

If time allows, students will then use primary materials available at the Nabb Research Center to unlock the secrets of Delmarva's past by reconstructing the daily lives of the hardy people who settled on lower Delmarva after 1632. As much as possible, students will try to "flesh out" the character of these settlers by attempting to understand them and the situation(s) in which they found themselves. Through an examination of their religious, political and intellectual natures, students will be able to obtain a glimpse into early colonial life on Delmarva. This approach has been tried on a broader scale by previous historians, but few have taken a microscope to an area and analyzed individuals in such details as this class will do.

Through this in-depth analysis, students will attempt to reconstruct the social and economic world which existed in the 17th and early 18th centuries on the Eastern Shore. Scholars are most fortunate to have access to a particularly rich store of documents, for the public records of this area are virtually intact for this period.

The keen interest in early colonial history is evidenced by the fact that this class was oversubscribed prior to the end of the summer registration period.

Eighteenth-Century Delmarva Emigration
Pushed or Pulled

by Cres Long

In the half century before the American Revolution, settlers from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia began moving to the southern frontier. While many of these people were recent immigrants from England, Germany and northern Ireland, a large number moved from homes they had already established on the eastern seaboard. The purpose of my study is to identify what motivated settlers to abandon the familiar for the lesser known and to gain a better understanding of the actual process of migration. Were these people *pushed* away by conditions that made their lives intolerable in their former homes, or were they *pulled* away; were they attracted to a perceived opportunity to better their lives in lands that were new to European settlers? Perhaps economics played a role subordinate to other forces, such as religion or the desire to maintain the unity of a family. Certainly the decision to move a household in the mid-18th century required the deep consideration of many factors.

In addition to examining letter collections, diaries and other manuscript sources at the Library of Congress, the Library of Virginia and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, I have relied extensively on the public records collection at the Nabb Research Center. Several significant families that migrated to western North Carolina, Virginia, and later to Tennessee and Kentucky had originally settled on Maryland's Eastern Shore early in the 18th century. By examining their wills, land records and court proceedings, I have pieced together the conditions that several of these Eastern Shore families left behind before heading to the southwest. Because the majority of settlers who migrated at this time began their journey from southeastern Pennsylvania and the adjacent counties of Cecil, MD, and New Castle, DE, those who left the Lower Shore present an opportunity to examine a migrating group that falls outside the "norm." Therefore, I hope my evaluation of Lower Shore emigrants will allow me to address directly the complex question of what motivated settlers to strike out for the backcountry.

For scholars of 17th- or 18th-century Chesapeake history, the resources at the Nabb Center will prove invaluable. Comprising copies of the oldest continuous set of county records in the nation, the Nabb Center's collection of Lower Shore documents is the most impressive of any that I have seen for this early period. Other than publishing a handful of articles and a couple of book-length monographs, historians have largely failed to mine the county records of Delmarva. Even the scholars who began taking an intense interest in Chesapeake studies a couple of decades ago have neglected the Eastern Shore, turning instead to the Virginia Tidewater and Southern Maryland regions. Because these sources have remained largely untapped, the Center's collection presents an incredible opportunity to re-evaluate colonial history in general and more specifically the social dynamics in the Chesapeake region. By scrutinizing Shore inventories, wills, deeds and court records, our understanding of early American life may become much more complex.

Additionally, the Nabb Center offers a terrific opportunity for faculty members to expose students to the craft of historical research. For almost any period of Delmarva history, students will find an array of primary sources including newspapers, diaries and ledgers, as well as the public records collection. Using these sources, students could produce either extensive term-length papers or shorter, more detailed interpretations of just a handful of documents. While only a small number of undergraduates will choose to pursue history professionally, the "exercise" of examining historical human experience from an unprocessed and up-close perspective should prove an enlightening endeavor for any student.

Finally, the genealogical resources at the Center, especially the Dryden Collection and the numerous published works, would be an asset to any social historian or genealogist. As the Center continues to grow, I am certain that genealogists and others in the academic community will recognize its potential for historical research.

A native of the Eastern Shore, Creston Long is in his third year of the colonial history program at the College of William and Mary. He is currently conducting research for his doctoral dissertation, tentatively titled "Southern Routes: The 18th-Century Migration to the Southern Backcountry." Creston lives in Salisbury with his wife and son.

Upcoming News and Events

Saturday Hours

The inclusion of Saturday hours in the schedule of the Nabb Research Center has proven beneficial to students and researchers alike. Since its inception, we have served approximately 32 patrons during the Saturday hours. Hopefully, as more people learn about these hours, the numbers will increase. These hours, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., continue during the summer and will become a part of our permanent schedule.

It is our hope that those who travel a distance for genealogical research will take advantage of our new hours.

Eastern Shore Events

May 2000
May 28 - Blessing of the Fleet - Chincoteague, VA

June 2000
June 9-10 - Village Fair - Berlin, MD
June 17 - 11th Annual Lewes Garden Tour - Lewes, DE
June 22-24 - Cypress Festival - Pocomoke City, MD
June 24 - African-American Festival - Dover, DE
Canal Day - Chesapeake City, MD

July 2000
July 19 - Tawes Crab and Clam Bake - Crisfield, MD
July 21-23 - 89th Annual Powerboat Regatta - Cambridge, MD
July 22 - 13th Annual Deborah Blueberry and Craft Festival - Chincoteague, VA
July 26-27 - Pony Swim and Auction - Chincoteague, VA

Source:
Edward H. Nabb Research Center For Delmarva History and Culture's Calendar, Year 2000

Preserving an Old Family Burial Ground

by John V. Dennis

It was standard practice during plantation days to have a family burial ground near the home of the owner. Well cared for as long as the family was in residence, the burial ground was likely to fall into a state of neglect when there was a change in ownership.

Beverly on the Pocomoke in Worcester County is an early home of the Dennis family that goes back to Donnoch Dennis who arrived from Ireland in 1657. He once owned the land where Beverly now stands. After several changes in ownership, the land was back in Dennis hands in 1769.

The Beverly mansion was completed in 1778 under the capable hands of Susanna, widow of Littleton Dennis who began construction in 1774. The home remained in the Dennis family until 1937.

There is a clause in the paperwork of the later changes of ownership giving Dennis family members the right to enter and care for the Beverly family burial ground. It is located about 100 yards north of the house and contains 36 graves. That 17 of them are of infants or young people testify to the high early mortality that prevailed during the 19th century and earlier.

Judge Samuel K. Dennis, late uncle of the writer, had a brick wall built around the burial ground and spaces between graves cemented over. Previous to these renovations around 1940, livestock had access to the burial ground, causing damage.

The writer, who lives in Princess Anne, has taken on the responsibility of looking after the graveyard. Fortunately, Judge Dennis had left a bequest providing money for this purpose. Therefore it has been possible to hire help to keep up maintenance chores. Weed killer is used to control vegetation that comes up through cracks, leaves and debris are removed every few months, and repairs are made on tombstones that become damaged.

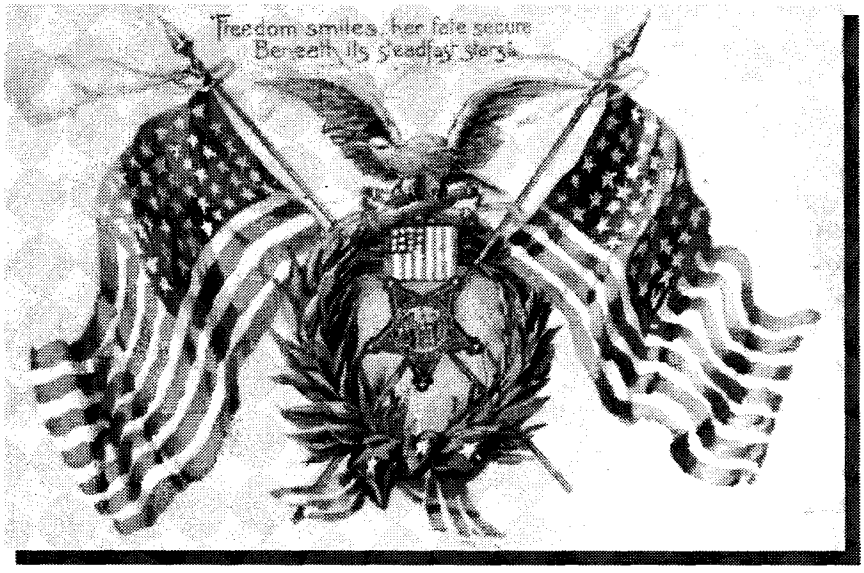
Thanks to the forethought of a family member, an old family burial ground is being properly cared for. He not only had it restored, but, very importantly, left funds for its future maintenance.

Dennis is the author of* The Dennises of Beverly And Their Kin *and numerous other books. He is a renowned orinthologist and has contributed many items to the collections at the Nabb Research Center.

Origins of Memorial Day

Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten, as a people, the cost of free and undivided republic. If other eyes grow dull and other hands slack, and other ears cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain in us.

- General John Logan, General Order No. 11, May 5, 1868



Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day. There are several stories as to its actual beginnings, with many cities, including Boalsburg and Waterloo both laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. There is also some evidence that women from the South decorated graves before the end of the Civil War. Wherever it may have started, it was first proclaimed on May 5, 1868, by General John Logan in his General Order No. 11 and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

Although originally meant for soldiers of the Civil War, Memorial Day has become symbolic for all Armed Forces personnel who risk their lives for us everyday and for those who have died in the line of duty for their country. On May 29, 2000, these are who we honor.

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